

Borough of Tenby

1971

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



B O R O U G H O F T E N B Y .

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1971.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Tenby

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1971.

HOUSING.

At the end of the year, work on the building of 27 new council houses at Tudor Way was nearing completion and these should be available for occupation early in 1972. In addition, a number of older private properties were improved with grants received from the Council. There is still a long waiting list for council accommodation in the Borough, with a special need to provide suitable housing for the elderly, who form a significant proportion of the resident population of Tenby. The ideal solution for the elderly is the provision of sheltered housing with a resident warden, but one major problem is the lack of building land within the Borough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It is pleasing to note the marked decrease in the number of cases of measles from 23 in 1970 to 5 in 1971. However, it is not certain whether this is due to the results of vaccination against measles or the known tendency of measles infection to occur biennially. No cases of food poisoning were reported to me during the year, but this does not mean that we can become complacent, as a high standard of food hygiene must be maintained in this busy holiday resort.

In common with the remainder of the County, as in previous years, a certain amount of 'tourist diarrhoea' was reported by the family doctors during the summer season. Although this is mainly attributed to the water supplies by visitors, laboratory tests have shown that this is not the case and that our water supplies are satisfactory.

In the Spring of 1971, an outbreak of german measles occurred in Pembrokeshire, with a number of cases occurring in the Tenby area.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Negotiations with the Narberth Rural District Council resulted in a satisfactory arrangement for the tipping of refuse from the Borough at Kingsnoor Common and this commenced in the Spring of 1971. This solved the refuse disposal problem which existed in the Borough, as the old tip on the boundary of the town had come to the end of its useful life.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Most of the milk consumed in the Borough is pasteurised and the small amount of untreated milk consumed comes from a brucella-free Accredited Herd. In a holiday resort such as this, it is essential that visitors should receive milk which is free from the risk of brucellosis.

CARAVANNING AND CAMPING.

Regular inspections were made during the season by your Public Health Inspector and I am pleased to report that standards on all sites were good. One large caravan site in the area very kindly provided special caravans and pitches for the use of handicapped adults and children, entirely free of charge. In addition, the Rotary Club of Tenby presented a specially adapted caravan to the Phab Club, which is an organisation for physically handicapped Youth Club members.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council and its Officers for their courtesy and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M Lawlor.

MICHAEL LAWLOR, M.B., B.Ch.,
D.C.H., D.P.H.,

The Clinic,
Warren Street,
TENBY.

Tel: TENBY 2991/2.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S .

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)...1971: 4,640

| | <u>Boro.of</u> <u>Tenby 1971</u> | <u>Boro.of</u> <u>Tenby 1970</u> | <u>County of</u> <u>Pembroke</u> | <u>England and</u> <u>Wales.</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Live Births | 57 | 62 | | |
| Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.) | 12.3 | 13.5 | 15.4 | 16.0 |
| Illegitimate Live Births | 7 | 8 | | |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births | 12 | 13 | 8 | 8 |
| Still Births | 1 | 2 | | |
| Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) | 17 | 31 | 26 | 12 |
| Total Live and Still Births | 58 | 64 | | |
| Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1yr) | Nil | 1 | | |
| Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) | | | | |
| - total | Nil | 16 | 18 | 18 |
| - legitimate | Nil | 19 | 19 | 17 |
| - illegitimate | Nil | Nil | 8 | 24 |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4wks)(per 1,000 Live Births) | Nil | 16 | 15 | 12 |
| Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 wk) (per 1,000 Live Births) | Nil | Nil | 13 | 10 |
| Peri-natal Mortality Rate(Deaths under 1wk and Still Births combined)(per 1,000 live and still births) | 17 | 31 | 39 | 22 |
| Maternal Deaths | Nil | Nil | | |
| Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births) | Nil | Nil | | 0.17 |
| Deaths | 68 | 66 | | |
| Death Rate (per 1,000 pop) | 14.7 | 14.4 | 13.1 | 11.6 |

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INFANT MORTALITY.

I am pleased to report that there were no deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1971 in the Borough.

DEATHS (General).

Once again, there is only a slight difference in the local death rate from the previous year. Of the total 68 deaths, 15 were due to malignant disease - 3 of these were due to cancer of the lung. Heart disease still accounted for the largest number of deaths - 19.

Approximately 44% of the deaths occurred in persons aged between 70 and 80 years and approximately 28% in persons aged over 80 years.

| <u>Causes of death.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| TOTAL (All causes) | 28 | 40 |
| Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc., | 1 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, intestine | 1 | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 2 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | | 1 |
| Leukaemia | 1 | - |
| Other malignant neoplasms | 2 | 2 |
| Anaemias | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of nervous system | 1 | 3 |
| Ischaemic heart disease | 8 | 11 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 2 | 9 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | 2 | 5 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis and emphysema | 2 | - |
| Peptic Ulcer | 1 | - |
| Other diseases of digestive system | 1 | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 | |
| Symptoms and ill-defined conditions | - | 2 |
| All other accidents | 1 | - |

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified to me from the Borough during the year :-

5 Measles
1 Tuberculosis (Other forms).

TUBERCULOSIS.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths from tuberculosis nor were any new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year. The only case of other forms of the disease was in a female patient in the 45 - 54 years age group.

Prevention of Tuberculosis: The annual school session of B.C.G. vaccination (13 year-olds and over) was carried out at Greenhill County Secondary School during the autumn term, when a total of 149 pupils were skin tested and 136 of these required vaccination. The Chest Physician, Dr. D. Llewelyn Davies, continued to vaccinate contacts at the Chest Clinic.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946.

Local Health Services: Vaccinations and immunisations were carried out regularly at Infant Welfare Clinics and at school sessions during the year. The following details relate to all children under 16 years of age who received vaccination and immunisation in the County during 1971 :-

| | |
|--|-------|
| Primary Diphtheria, Whooping cough and Tetanus immunisations: | 1,769 |
| Booster Diphtheria and Tetanus immunisations: | 1,284 |
| Whooping cough immunisations: | 1,772 |
| Primary Tetanus immunisations: | 2,052 |
| Primary Polionyelitis vaccinations: | 1,810 |
| Booster Polionyelitis doses: | 1,473 |
| B.C.G. vaccinations: | 1,124 |
| B.C.G. Contacts: | 54 |
| Measles vaccinations: | 747 |
| Rubella (German Measles) vaccinations: | 909. |

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Two ambulances continue to be based at Tenby and controlled by the County Council from Haverfordwest.

Ambulance No. 1 conveyed 2,031 sitting cases and 340 stretcher cases during the year, travelling a total of 31,101 miles. Ambulance No. 2 travelled 27,950 miles conveying 1,424 sitting cases and 438 stretcher cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951.

Section 47: Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was necessary for me to arrange the removal of one female patient from her home to hospital, under the above Section, during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND
HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT
1971.

D.H.W. GRIFFITHS.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR
THE YEAR 1971.

HOUSING.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts). | ... 157 |
| Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous of injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | ... Nil |
| Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | ... 61 |
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority. | ... 61 |

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Improvement Grants Approved | ... 23 |
| Standard Grants Approved | ... 2 |

As expected, more applications for Grants within the terms of the Housing Act 1969 were made this year. However, it is surprising to me that only this number of applications were received. I feel that the coming year will undoubtedly see a marked rise in such application, in that the general public will fully realise the implications of a free for all Grant system that holds very few, if any, restrictions.

The whole policy of the Government is to increase the stock of dwelling units in the country, and it would appear that no matter who or how these units are going to be used, the Government are resolved on this policy of stock increase. So much can be written and argued on the fairness of the policy, but at the end of the day it is my opinion that we will have an increase stock of houses for the forthcoming future into the year 2000.

It is iniquitous that moneyed people can, and are, in a position to acquire properties in seaside and holiday areas like Tenby to the detriment of the local inhabitants. But, I feel that the whole concept of this excellent policy of aiding in the improvement and rehabilitation of older properties, is the overall and major consideration.

However, it is my opinion that Government should introduce some sort of control on properties that have been improved. I believe that these improved properties should be held in the same ownership for a period of 5 years and that the property should either be owner occupied or rented on a permanent basis, the rent being controlled to a figure in conformity to the investment made by the owner in rehabilitating the property.

COUNCIL HOUSE ALLOCATION.

The main Council house allocations this year were concerned in the reallocating of existing houses and flats. It would appear from the figures, that tenancy exchanges are on the increase and certainly my department is concerned with many enquiries relating to tenancy exchanges. Undoubtedly this method of reallocating Council accommodation, does aid in the overall picture of Council owned property being utilised to their fullest extent.

If one appraises the type of tenant occupying the bigger units of accommodation, one quickly realises that many of the three bedroomed houses are occupied by a single tenant. This person normally is a widow or widower who has brought up a family within the house and undoubtedly the house has become more than bricks and mortar to the occupier and forms part of life as a home. However, I am convinced that in very many of these cases, the tenant would readily give up this three bedroomed unit if a home was found for the person in the immediate town area in the form of an Old Age Pensioner unit. Therefore, I feel that the Council's future policy should concern itself with the increase in the number of such units in order to satisfy the needs of the older tenants and in so doing, bring about the full utilization of three bedroomed houses.

Allocations made:

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Number of houses allocated 4 bedroomed | ... | 1 |
| Number of houses allocated 3 bedroomed | ... | 1 |
| Number of flats allocated 2 bedroomed | ... | 11 |
| Number of old-age-pensioner hungalows allocated | ... | 1 |
| Tenancy Exchanges | ... | 15 |

COUNCIL HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Table showing Council House Accommodation.

| <u>LOCATION.</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2 Bed</u> |
|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Beds.</u> | <u>Beds.</u> | <u>Beds.</u> | <u>Beds.</u> | <u>Flats.</u> |
| Newell Hill | 56 | - | 44 | - | - | 12 |
| Maudlins | 35 | - | 35 | - | - | - |
| The Glebe | 89 | - | 89 | - | - | - |
| Knowling Mead | 107 | 2 | 68 | 9 | 4 | 24 |
| Augustus Place | 22 | - | - | - | 22 | - |
| Churchill Close | 24 | - | - | - | - | 24 |
| Heywood Court | 71 | - | - | - | 23 | 48 |
| Jones Terrace | 8 | - | - | - | 8 | - |
| Leach Way | 24 | - | 24 | - | - | - |
| Totals: | 436 | 2 | 260 | 9 | 57 | 108 |

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

The importance of food hygiene practises in the catering industry is and should be, the prime factor to concern the persons so engaged in this type of business. It cannot be over emphasised that in any holiday area, that the public must be kept safeguarded from alimentary infections due to the consumption of dirty food. The incidents of enteric fevers during the past years has proven the down fall of many areas in relation to holiday attraction. It is a fact, that people are in fear of disease and when on holiday I believe that they should be fully protected from any infection which could affect the enjoyment of their holiday and cause possible grief and anxiety to the individual and his family. I believe that any person engaged in the business of an hotel, cafe, guest house or boarding house, must be aware not only of their legal responsibilities in relation to preparing sound clean food, but also have the common decency to the holidaying public, to think and act in an hygienic manner in relation to the production of food to be consumed by their clientele.

I endeavour to visit as many properties as I can to propagate this ideology, but the final responsibility of food hygiene lies in the hands of the person responsible for the production of the food for financial gain.

With the increase of people attracted to Pembrokeshire, it is obvious that the catering industry as a whole, will enlarge, and I sincerely hope that the existing, and new caterers, will have sense enough to realise the potential dangers in not practising good food hygiene. Personally, I hope that the thinking will revolve initially around a good and well designed kitchen, and not on how many tables can be pushed into a room or the enlargement of the dining room to the detriment of the kitchen size. One cannot produce good clean sound food in cramped and inadequate kitchen rooms.

CONDEMNATION OF FOOD.

| <u>Class of Food.</u> | <u>Weight.</u> | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>Cwts.</u> | <u>Qtrs.</u> | <u>lbs.</u> | <u>Ozs.</u> |
| Tinned meat | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| Fresh meat | - | 3 | 10 | - |
| Tinned fruit | - | - | 22 | - |
| Tinned vegetables | - | - | - | - |
| Tinned fish | - | - | 8 | - |
| Fresh vegetables | - | - | - | - |
| Miscellaneous foods | - | - | - | - |
| | - | 4 | 42 | - |

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

| Premises. | <u>No. on Register.</u> | <u>Inspec- tions.</u> | <u>Written Notices.</u> | <u>Prosecutions.</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 7 | 53 | - | - |
| 2. Factories not included (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. | 37 | 61 | - | - |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises). | - | - | - | - |
| | 44 | 114 | - | - |

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACTS 1963.

| <u>No. of premises registered during 1971.</u> | | | | | | | | | | | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|--------------|
| Offices ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil | 29 |
| Retail Shops ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 86 |
| Wholesale Shops ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil | 3 |
| Catering Establishments .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 30 |
| Fuel Storage Depots . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>Nil</u> | <u>Nil</u> |
| | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 148 |

Analysis of Persons Employed.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|---------------|
| Offices ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 88 | |
| Retail Shops ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 370 | |
| Wholesale Shops ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | |
| Catering Establishments .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 263 | Males .. 229 |
| Canteens .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>5</u> | Females . 503 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 732 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | — | |

The administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and its many regulations, is, to say the least, difficult to implement in a town that revolves around the holiday industry. The premises which concern this Act are such that their staff members are increased and decreased according to the time of year and in relation to the holiday population. The facts as reported above, are to the best of my knowledge, accurate in accordance with the return made to me under the Act.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year, Mr. Billy Lloyd retired as our rodent control operative, after serving the Council for 24 years. I would like to thank Mr. Lloyd for serving as the rodent operative for some years, during this period he showed concern and interest in the job of rodent eradication.

It appears from the figures that we have, that the rodent population of the town did not increase during the year, in fact, I believe that it might have diminished. This is because we carry out a service that can immediately deal with any complaints of rodent occurrences.

Again we continued with using poisons of the ante-coagulant type and it was not found necessary to bring into operation any of the direct poisons now being used in other authorities, due to the rodent immunity to Warfarin.

The sewers of the town were treated during the year, but it was interesting to note that very few bodies were found either in the sewers themselves or at our sewerage disposal works. The Clicketts Lane area received periodical checks, but no evidence of major rat infestation was evident.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|
| Rat Infestations | ... | 199 |
| Mouse Infestations | ... | 6 |

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

During the summer period a constant watch was kept on the caravan sites licensed by the Council, and also for any occurrences of caravanning contrary to the above Act.

It was found necessary to prosecute Mr. J. Morris under Section 1 of the Act, for continuing to site caravans on unlicensed land at Windmills, Narberth Road, after being given several warnings. The outcome of the prosecution was that Mr. Morris was fined £177. Further to this summons, Mr. Morris again transgressed and it was thought necessary to again prosecute him under the Act.

The general conditions of the Licensed Sites may be described as very good, and it would appear that the Site owners are endeavouring to bring about a high standard of amenity.

It would appear that the National Parks Committee and County Planning have edicted that this part of the County has reached a plane of saturation in relation to the number of static caravan pitches within the coastal belt. This fact does not in any way concern the licensing authority, as the licence must be based on the number of caravans permitted initially under Planning legislation. However, I feel from the Public Health aspect, that the planners must have concern for the number of touring caravans that enter into the County seeking accommodation for a period of days to that of weeks. In many instances, these people come because of the attraction of Pembrokeshire and also the advertisements seen in various publications. I feel that the planning policy must be concerned with the fact that if people are attracted to this area, then provision must be available for them to comfortably stay in this area or otherwise, we will have our highways and byways lined with touring caravans with their associated debris of one kind and another, littering the landscape and causing Public Health hazards.

Five Licensed Caravan Sites exist in the Borough Area.

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. | Kiln Park and Quarry Site | ... | ... | 600 | Caravans. |
| 2. | Salterns | ... | ... | 58 | " |
| 3. | Zion Gardens | ... | ... | 28 | " |
| 4. | Meadow Farm | ... | ... | 15 | " |
| 5. | Windmills | ... | ... | 15 | " |

WATER SUPPLY.

The quality of water in relation to its bacteriological and chemical constituents was surveilled during the year both by myself and the Water Board. The samples were found to be generally satisfactory.

The Water Board did utilise the raw water source of the Ritec River during certain days of peak demand in the summer.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| CHEMICAL SAMPLES | ... | 6 |
| BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES | ... | 34 |

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Again this year the refuse disposal service has proved to be excellent with Council affording a day to day service within the immediate town area and a twice weekly collection service to the remainder of the Borough. It was found necessary, due to the increase bulk of refuse and the length of carry to the Kingsmoor refuse tipping area, to hire a vehicle from the Municipal Vehicle Co. Ltd. This vehicle proved to be of great service, making up a fleet of three refuse vehicles serving the area during the period of the summer holiday season. No breakdown of service or undue delay occurred during the busy period and, in fact, I can report that the whole project worked smoothly from the point of collection to the point of disposal.

I would take this opportunity to thank Mr. W. Davies, the Chief Public Health Inspector of Narberth, for his courtesy and consideration in facilitating the refuse to be deposited on the Kingsmoor Common

In conclusion, I would again compliment my refuse team for a job well done during the whole year.

